AN ACCOUNT OF THE SESSIONS OF Parliament IN Ireland, 1692.

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AN ACCOUNT Of the SESSIONS OF Parliament IN Ireland, 1692.

THIS Kingdom having been ever ſince the Years 1665 without a Parliament, to the great diſcouragement and Prejudice of the Proteſtant and *Engliſh* Intereſt here: It is not to be wondred, if the firſt Report of a Parliament, graciouſly deſigned by their preſent Majeſty's to

be held the latter end of this Year, employed the Thoughts and Diſcourſes of all Proteſtants, and filled them with deſires to ſee ſo good a Deſign put in Execution, which was expected at the *Lord* Lieutenant's Arrival; his Excellency Landed on the twenty fifth day of *Auguſt*, and Writs were immediately iſſued for a Parliament to meet on the fifth of *October* following.

Every body began then more cloſely to conſider and Enquire, as well what could be, as what was likely to be done in this Parliament.

It was not doubted, but their Majeſties Occaſions in this Kingdom, wanted Supplies of Money, which People were generally and chearfully diſpoſed to comply with, but the Anſwer of one of his Excellencies Secretaries to a Member of the *Houſe* of Commons a few days before the Parliament ſat, was a little unaccountable; that there were no other Bills deſigned to be tendered to the Houſe this Seſſion, but only three, *viz.* An Act of Recognition, an Act for Confirming the Acts of Settlement and Explanation;

and

and an Act declaring all Attainders, and other Acts of the late Pretended Parliament, void, tho' at the ſame time another Gentleman belonging to the Council, declared that other Bills would be then alſo tender'd, namely, An Act for Confirming the Articles of *Limrick* (the firſt Article of which, if confirmed, would make Popery an Eſtabliſhed Religion; and the ſixth would deprive all Proteſtants of their Actions againſt the Papiſts, by whom they were Plundered, even while they lived in Peace with them) and alſo Money-Bills, a Member of the Houſe of Commons (then preſent when this was openly ſpoken) anſwered, that the Houſe would conſider well of thoſe Acts before they paſſed them, but the ſame Perſon replyed, that it would be in vain to trouble themſelves about it, aſſuring them they were as well Debated already as was needful; and they had nothing elſe to do, but to paſs them; and added, that If any Scruple was made about them, there would never again be a Parliament in *Ireland*.

Theſe and ſuch like Diſcourſes common in Town, took off the pleaſure and ſatisfaction

tion People had in the hopes of an happy Iſſue of this Parliament.

On *Wedneſday* the 5*th. October* the Parliament being met, and the Commons ſent for up to the Lords houſe, his Excellency was pleaſed to declare in his Speech; *Their Majeſties Command to him of calling this Parliament immediately after his Arrival, and their goodneſs in reſtoring to this Kingdom a bleſſing of which it had for ſo many years been deprived, a Legally Conſtituted and Aſſembled Parliament, by the long Intermiſſion of which, the Engliſh in this Kingdom had been in great danger of loſing both their Religion and Liberty, and invited them with many grateful arguments to paſs ſuch Laws as might ſettle and ſecure them both for the future; concluding with a demand of a ſupply, and promiſe* of repreſenting their ſervices well to their Majeſties.

The Commons being returned to their Houſe, proceeded to chooſe their ſpeaker, and ſeveral of the Members having been informed that his Excellency wou'd be well pleaſed with their Choice of Sr. *Richard Levinge* their Majeſties Solicitor General, the Houſe ſoon came to a Reſolution in it, thoſe that were propoſed for it having before (at his

his Excellencies desire) waved their own pretensions thereto; and both they and others who have since lain under the displeasure of the Government used their utmost endeavors in the House for effecting it; so that Sr. *Richard* was chosen Speaker, without those heats that had been so frequent and violent in former Parliaments in *Ireland*.

The Speaker being chosen the Members took the Oaths & subscribed the Declaration appointed by the *English* Act, & then adjourned to *Friday* the seventh, on which day his Excellency had directed them to present their Speaker, they then met, but were informed that his Excellency was indisposed, and cou'd not come to the House of Lords; an Address therefore being made to him to know his further pleasure therein, he was pleased to appoint *Monday* the tenth for that purpose.

The House having received this Answer, a motion was made that the Members who were returned for several places might have leave in the mean time to make their Election for which place they wou'd serve, and that Warrants thereupon may Issue, and se-

veral Preſidents in point were urged for it, but it was oppoſed, becauſe the Speaker thought not fit to act before his approbation; to the delay of publick buſineſs almoſt three days.

On Monday the tenth, the *Lord* Lieutenant came to the Houſe of *Lords*, and approved the Speaker.

The Commons being returned to their Houſe, an Addreſs of thanks was Immediately voted to his Excellency for his Speech, and a Committee appointed to Meet the ſame afternoon to prepare it; and leſt the time ſpent in preparing it ſhou'd be interpreted to proceed from want of Reſpect, it was voted that the Members of the Houſe that were of the Privy Council, ſhou'd attend his Excellency in the afternoon, and acquaint him with the ſaid Vote, and on *Thurſday* following the Speaker attended by the whole Houſe, preſented the ſaid Addreſs.

The

The reſt of this day, and of *Tueſday* the 11*th.* was ſpent in determining the Choice of Members doubly Elected, in appointing Grand Committees, and in expelling a Member for betraying the Proteſtant and Engliſh Intereſt, which took up ſome time and debate in the Houſe.

On *Wedneſday* 12*th.* beſides the Houſe receiving Petitions about undue Returns, *&c.* the Act of Recognition, being ſent down from the Lords, was thrice read, and paſs'd, with a Vote, that no other *Bill* afterward ſhou'd be read more than once in a day.

Thurſday the 13*th.* was taken up partly in receiving the Submiſſion of the foremention'd expelled Member, and diſcharging him out of Cuſtody; and partly in debating the Priviledge of the Houſe about Poſt Letters: It had been firſt moved on the 10*th.* but one of the Secretaries then acquainting the Houſe, that his Excellency wou'd take care to Iſſue an Order to the Poſtmaſter for franking them; the Debate was let fall. And on the next day after, the Houſe re-

ceived their Letters free, having paid for them till then; but this day one of the Members informed the Houſe, that the Order for it took place only from *Tueſday* the 11*th.* which was looked upon to make the Priviledge precarious, and wholly at the Lord Lieutenants diſcretion; after ſome debate thereupon, and urging Preſidents of the King's *Meſſengers* carrying the *Members* Letters free before the erection of the Poſt Office; It was voted for this and other Reaſons, in order to aſſert the Priviledge of the Houſe, that it was their Right to have their *Letters* free; which Vote at the Requeſt of ſome of the Members, was afterwards ordered not to be printed.

On *Friday* and *Saturday* the 14*th.* & 15*th.* the Houſe proceeded to take into Conſideration that part of his Excellency's Speech, relating to a Supply for their Majeſties; the firſt motion for it having been made, and ſeconded on *Friday* by ſome of them, who have ſince born the marks of the Governments Diſpleaſure.

One of the Secretaries laid before the Houſe an imperfect State of the Revenue for the enſuing Year, and Copies affirmed of the

Eſtabliſhments

Eſtabliſhments Civil and Military; and informed them, that his Majeſty (by reaſon of the waſted condition of this Kingdom) intending to remit a conſiderable part of the Quit and Crown Rents, a Sum of 64500 *l.* was neceſſary to ſupply the Deficiencies of the Revenue for a year, beginning the 25*th. March*, 1693.

The granting of a Supply hereupon came to be fully debated; the great Poverty of the Kingdom in almoſt all the parts thereof, and the vaſt quantities of Land untenanted, and abſolutely waſte, and the inability of moſt perſons to pay even the ſtanding Revenue of the Quit Rent was repreſented; as likewiſe the great Obligations both of Duty and Gratitude which this Kingdom lay under to their Majeſties, and the grateful ſenſe which they ought to have of the vaſt expence of Blood and Treaſure *England* has already been at, were recognized and urged with their due Weight. And it was Reſolved, That nothing leſs than abſolute neceſſity ſhou'd make this Kingdom a Charge to *England*: Upon the whole matter, the *Houſe* came to this unanimous Vote, That a Sum not exceeding 70000 *l.* ſhould be given as a Supply to their *Majeſties*.

On

On *Monday* the 17*th*. the Houſe received ſome Reports from the Committee of Priviledges, concerning Burroughs newly erected by King *Charles* II. which never ſent Members to Parliament before this Seſſion.

But this being recommitted, the Houſe fell upon debate about another Member accuſed for Crimes of like nature with the former; who on *Saturday* following being fully heard with his Witneſſes at the Bar, was alſo expelled.

On *Tueſday* the 18*th*. part of the Eſtabliſhment was read in the Committee of the whole Houſe, for conſidering of the Supply, as alſo the remaining part thereof on the *Monday* following; the Exceptions made againſt both, were waved.

At this time ſeveral Committees did with great Application enquire into the Embezelments of the forfeited Lands and Goods, which as yet had yielded nothing in proportion to what it was ſuppoſed they might. The Members very well knew, that both real and perſonal Eſtates, to a conſiderable value, had been ſeized in their Reſpective Counties, and were witneſſes of the foul Practices that had been uſed in the managing

and

and diſpoſal of them: They knew alſo, that their Majeſties Revenue wou'd be made more conſiderable for the future, by detecting and puniſhing the paſt Miſmanagements and Frauds. And accordingly the Houſe came to a Vote on *Thurſday* the 20th. (*Wedneſday* being the Monthly Faſt) that it was a great breach of Truſt, and a Grievance, for any intruſted with the management of their Majeſties Revenue, to take to Farm any of the forfeited Intereſts.

Several things of this kind being proved to be done by *William C-----d*, Eſq; (one of the late Commiſſioners of the Revenue) before the Committee of Grievances (as alſo great Quantities of Goods, and Stock, by him ſeized and unaccounted for;) he inſiſted on Priviledge as a Member of the *Houſe* of Commons of *England*; whereof the Houſe being informed, thought fit to proceed only in taking Examinations touching matter of Fail; but wou'd not oblige him to any defence after his inſiſting on his Priviledge.

The Houſe alſo agreed to another Report from the ſaid Committee, that the continuing Papiſts in the Army, or ſuffering them to have ſerviceable Horſes or Arms, was at this

juncture

juncture of dangerous Conſequence to this Kingdom; and Voted an Addreſs hereupon for Remedy thereof: And being informed that his Excellency had cauſed divers ſuſpected Perſons to be apprehended, and ſeveral Troops to be ſent down to ſuppreſs ſome *Iriſh* who were out in Arms, voted their humble Thanks to be preſented to him.

On *Friday* the 21*ſt.* a Bill for confirming the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, which had been brought in on the 12*th.* and had been twice read, was, according to the Order of the day, debated in a Committee of the whole Houſe; it is certain, there could hardly have come a Bill to the Commons of this Kingdom with a more welcome Title than this; four parts in five of them having Eſtates dependant on the Acts of Settlement, *&c.* and therefore it will be much wondred that it ſhould occaſion any matter of Debate to them; but upon conſidering thereof, they cou'd not find one line in the whole Bill, which they could allow of, neither was there one word offer'd in defence thereof; but they declared it to be a Bill of ſuch pernicious Contexture as inſtead of confirming, it wou'd have unſettled the greateſt part of the

Eſtates

Eſtates of this Kingdom; and ſeveral of the Members cou'd not avoid being poſſeſſed with Jealouſies, that ſuch a *Bill* ſhou'd be tender'd them.

On *Saturday* the 22*d.* the Lord Lieutenant ſignify'd in a Meſſage to the Houſe, that this Seſſion wou'd not continue above a fortnight longer, and therefore recommended the ſpeedy Proceeding on ſuch Bills as were, or ſhou'd be brought before them; upon which they voted, that no more private Petitions ſhou'd be received.

On *Monday* the 24*th.* a *Bill* (which had been brought in on the 18*th.*) for declaring all Attainders, and other Acts made in the late pretended Parliament void, was read the firſt time; the Title of this was no leſs ſpecious, than that for confirming the Act of Settlement, *&c.* but the Houſe found it for their *Majeſties* Service, and the *Honour* of the Proteſtants of *Ireland*, to preſerve the Records of the *Iriſh Barbarity*; which they cou'd not do without rejecting this *Bill*, becauſe it requir'd the ſaid Records to be taken off the File.

Then they proceeded in a Committee of

the whole *House*, to consider of ways to raise the Sum voted for a *Supply*.

Two Mony *Bills* had been sent to the *House* on *Saturday* the 22*d*. which were transmitted from *England* under the Great *Seal* there; the Constitution of this Kingdom (since *Poyning's* Act, 10*th*. *H*. 7.) requiring, that all *Bills* shou'd be so transmitted before they are passed into Laws here. One of those *Bills* was for an Additional Excise; and the other for a *Tax* upon Corn: These were ordered by the *House* to be laid on the *Table*, and not to be read till some Expedient might be found, for a Difficulty that arose upon the bringing in these *Bills*.

It has always been conceived the Original Right of the Commons, that Mony *Bills* should take their Rise in their *House*, & that as well the *Quantum*, as the method of raising it, should be determined by them; the House lookt upon this to be their inherent Fundamental Right, and that the same was not taken away by any Act of Parliament in this Kingdom; as in reason they thought none cou'd be so good Judges of the propereſt and easiest way of taxing the Subject, as they, and even since *Poyning's* Act, those Rights of the

the Houſe are found Aſſerted in the Journals, on the bringing in of Mony *Bills*, whereof they did not prepare the Heads, and it is found to be a ſtanding Order in the ſaid Journals, That no Bill to *Tax* the Subject be brought into the Houſe without leave of the Houſe firſt obtained.

But the Houſe conſidering, that their Majeſties Occaſions required an immediate Supply, and that probably, there might not be time allowed during this Seſſion, for *Bills* of their own preparing to be returned from *England*, according to Form, they were neceſſitated to conſider how to reconcile theſe points.

The firſt Expedient thought on was this, The Additional Exciſe *Bill*, of the two, ſeemed moſt conſiſtent with the State of this Kingdom to be paſſed into an Act; tho the *Houſe* obſerved ſeveral Matters of juſt Exception in it, as the inequality of *Taxing* different Liquors, the *Taxing* of ſome Liquors under the notion of an Additional Duty, which had not been *Taxed* before, and continuing the former Incertainty of Meaſures; to be relieved againſt which laſt, a Petition of the Brewers had been preferred, and lay up-

on the Table, ſetting forth, that the Kings Duty had been of late (by the means of Sir *James Shaen*, and others, the then Farmers of the Revenue, who were likewiſe Commiſſioners of the Exciſe, and conſequently Judges for their own Advantages) levyed by them of a Gallon of 217 Cubical Inches, tho for ſeveral years after the firſt paſſing the Act of Exciſe in this Kingdom, the meaſures by which the King's Officers then levyed that Duty (and by which the Brewers always have, and are now by Law obliged to ſell is a Gallon of 282 Inches, propoſing withal ſuch an encreaſe of Duty to be made, as ſhou'd anſwer the loſs the Revenue might ſuſtain by Regulation of the *Meaſure*. This Petition and Complaint, how reaſonable ſoever it might be in it ſelf, was not thought fit to be taken into conſideration, leſt it might retard the reading and paſſing the ſaid *Bill*.

So that Poſtponing this and the other Exceptions, the *Houſe* thought an Expedient might be found for paſſing this Bill as it was, by voting firſt an Additional Duty exactly correſponding with the ſaid Bill in all the parts of it: And theſe *Heads* ſo prepared, being tender'd to the Lord Lieutenant and Council

Council, to be drawn into a Bill and transmitted, the *House* might receive the Bill already sent as transmitted from *England*, and framed on their heads: And accordingly they passed the said Vote for such Additional Excise.

On *Tuesday* the 25*th*. the *House* received Reports from Committees, particularly concerning Civil *Bills*, as of late practiced at Assizes, without any Foundation in Law, upon pretence of being a more expeditious and cheap way of recovering Debts and Damages; Which the *House* voted to be Arbitrary, Illegal, and a Burthen to the Subject; and that an Address shou'd be presented to the Lord Lieutenant in Council, to prepare a Bill, which might answer what was of advantage in this practice, without oppressing the Subject, by giving an unlimited Power to the Judges.

Then by order of the day, the *House* resolved into a Committee to consider the State of the Nation; and it being proposed, that the best means to settle this Kingdom in a lasting *Happiness*, wou'd be to find out the causes of its Misery. The Committee resolved on, and voted, (among other Reasons) these two following to be assigned for it;

First,

Firſt, the great countenance given to the *Iriſh* Papiſts in the Reign of K. *C.* 2*d.* and their being employ'd by the late King *James.* Secondly, the obſtruction of the courſe of Juſtice by Illegal Protections, granted ſince the defeat at the *Boyne.*

A motion was made in debate of this latter, that particulars might be inſtanced, and the perſons who granted them named, to the end their Majeſties might know who they were that had ſo much abuſed their Authority committed to them; but ſome ſcrupled it, becauſe of the great Characters they bore; and the Committee ſoon breaking up, this was deferred till its next Sitting, which was on the 27*th.* and then it was only concluded (the Members being willing the Speaker ſhou'd reſume the Chair, in order to proceed on the Exciſe Bill) to name perſons at the next Sitting thereof, which was appointed on the 29*th.* and ſo from day to day; but this Committee ſtill gave place to that for conſidering the Supply, & no Report was ever made to the Houſe from the ſaid Committee; but on *November* the 1*ſt.* it was ordered to ſit on the 4*th.* and nothing to intervene.

Wedneſ-

Wedneſday and *Thurſday* the 26*th*. & 27*th*. were taken up in debating other Expedients, for the difficulty mention'd on *Monday*, that then offer'd, not being found to anſwer the Ends; after ſeveral propoſed, ſome that were moved by Members, who had preſſed the Reading of the Bill, and were ſuppo ed to ſpeak what was Agreeable to the Government, took place, which were to aſſert the Priviledges of the Houſe by a Vote, to read the Exciſe Bill in order to paſs it, and reject the Corn Bill: Accordingly this Exciſe Bill was thus read, and ſo ſucceſſively every day till it was paſſed.

On *Friday* the 28*th*. the Corn Bill, according to the former Expedient, was rejected, and the reaſon given, becauſe it had not its Riſe in the Houſe of Commons.

The Houſe then Reſolved it ſelf into a Committee, and proceeded to conſider further of Method to anſwer the Contents of the Corn Bill by ſome other Tax, that their Majeſties might receive the full Supply demanded.

It was conſidered, that the Corn Bill wou'd have yielded no Mony until *Summer*, 1693. and part thereof not until *Michaelmas* following;

lowing; and they thought they might by other means raiſe the Sum much ſooner, and more equally.

The ſeveral ways of raiſing Mony, was throughly debated; and at length the Committee unanimouſly agreed on a Poll *Bill* for ſeveral Reaſons, of which the following was not the leaſt: They were in hopes to have paſſed this *Bill* before the end of the Seſſion by Adjournment, till a *Bill* prepared according to Heads agreed on by them, might have been tranſmitted into *England*, and returned hither to be paſſed; this wou'd have been an immediate Fund, which with the Exciſe *Bill* wou'd have amounted to much more than the Sum required.

They who were for this in the Houſe, cou'd not ſuppoſe that theſe Proceedings wou'd have been any ways diſpleaſing to the Government.

The ſame day three ingroſſed *Bills* were ſent down from the Lords, *viz.* an Act for puniſhing Mutineers and Deſerters; an Act for Encouragement of Proteſtant Strangers; and An Act for preventing Vexatious Suits. Of theſe the *Bill* for encouraging Proteſtant Strangers, *&c.* was read, & in three days paſſed: And the *Bill* for preventing Vexatious

Suits

Suits was twice read, and committed to a ſelect Committee ;but it was not Reported to the Houſe at the time of the Prorogation.

On *Monday* the 31*ſt.* (*Saturday* having been ſpent in the laſt reading and paſſing the Bill for an Additional Exciſe, and in debates about a controverted Election) a Bill for ſettling a *Militia* in this Kingdom (which had been brought into the Houſe on the 24*th.*) was read the firſt time; but it propoſing a much greater Number to be raiſed upon ſeveral Counties, than there were Proteſtant Inhabitants in the ſaid Countys, and lodging too great a Power in Commiſſioners of Array, for theſe and other Reaſons was rejected; however, the Houſe being ſenſible, that a Bill for ſettling a *Militia*, wou'd be very requiſite for this Kingdom, reſolved to conſider of it on *Tueſday* the firſt of *November*, in a Committee of the whole Houſe; and then came to a Vote, that a *Militia* by Law eſtabliſhed, was abſolutely neceſſary for preſerving the Peace of this Kingdom; and made a conſiderable Progreſs in forming of it, and appointed to proceed on it again on the 3*d.* of *November*.

A Committee having formerly been ap-

pointed amongſt other things, to inſpect what Laws had been made in *England* ſince the 10. *H.* 7. and were fit to be enacted in this Kingdom; and the Houſe purſuant to their Report, having voted ſeveral of them in particular to be neceſſary; ordered the ſaid Committee to attend the Lord Lieutenant in Council with the ſaid Votes, and humbly to deſire that Bills might be prepared accordingly; but his Excellency not coming to Council on the day the Houſe was informed his Excellency wou'd be for this purpoſe attended there: The Houſe on *Wedneſday* the 2*d.* ordered an Addreſs to be made to his Excellency, to know his pleaſure therein; and his Excellency thereupon was pleaſed to appoint *Friday* the 4*th.* in the Afternoon, to be attended with the ſaid Votes.

At the ſame time his Excellency was alſo pleaſed to accept of the Commons Addreſs in behalf of their Chaplain, and in a moſt obliging manner, to declare, that their Addreſs ſhou'd be always acceptable to him.

This day alſo the Houſe received a Meſſage from his Excellency recommending to them, the taking the Bill for puniſhing Mutineers and Deſerters by Martial Law into

ſpeedy

ſpeedy Conſideration. This *Bill* was brought into the Houſe the 28*th.* of *October*, and had been twice Read and Committed; one of the Secretaries preſſed, that it might be taken from the Committee, and immediately read a third time; but the Houſe conceiving it more proper to be debated in a Committee, Reſolved accordingly, and thinking the former Number thereof too few to debate a matter of ſo great moment, ordered, that all that came, ſhou'd have Votes, and to be Reported next Morning.

On *Thurſday* the 3*d.* the ſaid *Bill* being Reported with the Amendments, was rejected by the Houſe, it containing not one fifth part of the Act made in *England* to that purpoſe; and the part in that *Engliſh* Act relating to the good of the Subject, and the Kingdom in general (by obliging the Officers to orderly Quarters, faithful Payment of the Souldiers, and to juſt and true Muſters, being quite left out: And whereas the *Engliſh* Act is to continue only for one Year, this was to continue for three years, and from thence to the end of the next Seſſion of Parliament. But a Committee was then appointed to meet that Afternoon,

and prepare Heads of a Bill, agreeable to the ſaid *Engliſh* Act.

Soon after the rejecting this Bill, ſeveral of the Members were informed that the Parliament wou'd be immediately Prorogued or Diſſolved.

A large Report was then made to the Houſe, from a ſelect Committee, repreſenting Diſcoveries of very great Conſequence, drawn from the Accounts relating to the forfeited *Iriſh* Eſtates both Real and Perſonal; but the Houſe receiving information, That his Excellency was come to the Houſe of Lords. This Report was ordered to lye on the Table.

A Meſſage was brought by the Uſher of the Black Rod, requiring the Houſe of Commons immediately to attend his Excellency in the Lord's Houſe.

The Houſe accordingly went up to the Houſe of Lords, his Excellency being ſeated in his Robes, gave the Royal Aſſent to four Bills, *viz.* The Act of Recognition, The Act of Exciſe, The Act for Encouragement of Proteſtant Strangers, and the Act for taking Affidavits in the Country; the Mony Bill was paſſed, with the uſual Form, *viz.* that their Majeſties thank their Loyal Subjects, and accepted their Benevolence.

The Houſe were ſomewhat ſurprized at this unexpected Reſolution, having expected to ſit at leaſt the next day, and did not apprehend what occaſion they had given of Diſpleaſure to his Excellency to put ſo ſudden an end to the Seſſion; when the day before he expreſſed himſelf ſo favourably to them, in anſwer to their Addreſſes, and aſſigned them the day after this for the Committee

to

to attend him in Council; but they were more ſurprized to hear his Excellency charge them in his Speech, *That they had not anſwered the Ends for which they were called together, but had behaved themſelves undutifully and ungratefully, in invading their Majeſties Perogative*; a Charge of ſuch a nature as ſounded very harſh in the Ears of Gentlemen, who looked upon themſelves, and the reſt of the Proteſtants in this Kingdom, to be as obſequiouſly devoted to their Majeſties Intereſt, as any of their Majeſties Subjects; a Qualification and Temper, which they knew was not likely to recommend them to thoſe amongſt whom they lived, and therefore could not, but with the higheſt regret and trouble, hear his Excellency caſt them off from their juſt Claim to the moſt unfeigned Dutifulneſs and Affection to their Majeſties (which they held as dear to them as their Lives,) and at the ſame time expoſe them to the Inſultings of their moſt implacable and malitious Adverſaries, who they knew were ever watchful and ready to improve all Advantages againſt them; who cou'd not but look upon a Proteſtant Parliament with trouble, and therefore rejoyced to ſee it meet with ſuch Treatment.

They reflected on what they had done, that cou'd poſſibly occaſion ſo ſevere a Cenſure; but his Excellency in his next Sentence, was pleaſed to clear this point to them, by referring to their printed Votes of the 27*th.* of *October*, That it is the ſole and undoubted Right of the Houſe of Commons, to prepare Heads of Mony Bills, and to their rejecting a Mony Bill the next day, becauſe it had not it's Riſe in their Houſe.

This

This the Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons, cou'd not but very much admire of, conſidering how maturely (and with what deference to their Majeſties Prerogative) thoſe things had been debated in the Houſe; and not only conſented to, but firſt propoſed as an Expedient, by ſome who have always both before and ſince, comply'd with the Directions of the Government without Reſerve; all the Votes relating to the Expedient, being likewiſe Reſolved without one Negative Voice.

But for theſe Reaſons, his Excellency declared, *That he thought himſelf obliged to proteſt againſt thoſe Votes and the Entries of them in the Commons Journals; and accordingly he did in full Parliament Proteſt againſt them, and ordered the Clerk of the Houſe of Lords, to Read the ſaid Proteſt, and enter it in the Journals of the ſaid Houſe*, without its being put to the Queſtion, or Voted there: And then the Lord Chancellor (by his Excellencies Command) Prorogued the Parliament to the *6th.* of *April* next.

It muſt be owned, That in this Speech of his Excellency, as it was after printed; his Charge againſt the Houſe of Commons is not in ſo ſevere Terms, as thoſe before ſet down, which yet were the preciſe Expreſſions as they were ſpoken, they making too deep an Impreſſion in the Minds of thoſe who heard them, to be eaſily forgotten.

It may alſo be obſerved, that his Excellency referred to their printed Votes of the *27th.* of *Octob.* Tho no printed Votes have been publickly ſeen, ſince thoſe of the *25th.* But in his Excellencies printed Speech, the word *Printed* is left out.

It cannot be avoided to mention here as an effect of this unparalell'd Diſpleaſure of his Excellency, againſt

againſt the Houſe of Commons, that within few days after the Prorogation, one of the Members was affronted in the Caſtle, by Brigadeer *Stewart*, and Mr. *Watſon*, Steward to his Excellency, with his *White Rod* in his hand, and others his Excellency's Servants, without the leaſt Provocation. This was complained of by the Speaker to his Excellency, but no ſatisfaction given.

Several of the Members were hereupon convinced, That thoſe Perſons who dreaded the Proceedings of the Houſe, were to the misfortune of this Nation, in ſo great Credit with his Excellency, as to occaſion the harſh Expreſſions uſed upon the Prorogation, and had from thence juſt reaſon to ſuſpect that thoſe very Perſons wou'd prevail on him to repreſent the Commons to their Majeſties, under the ſame unhappy Characters, which had in open Parliament been fixed upon them; to avoid which, and likewiſe to prevent the Miſeries threatning this Kingdom, in caſe their Majeſties are not informed of the true State of this Nation: They Reſolved on the like methods, which on ſeveral occaſions had been practic'd by the People of this Kingdom in former Reigns; and therefore deſired Sir *Arthur Rawdon*, Sir *Robert King*, Sir *Arthur Langford*, and Mr. *Anneſley* (four of the Members) to deliver a Petition to his Excellency, for leave to ſend Agents to attend their Majeſties in *England*.

This they did on the *7th.* of *November*, and his Excellency was pleaſed to ſay, *That his Majeſty was the Proteſtans Agent, and they ſhou'd have leave to go for* England, *to beg their Majeſties Pardon for their Seditious and Riotous Aſſemblies.* Not admitting

of

of a Reply, but concluding, *He had no other Answer to give them.* The Lord Chancellor afterwards told one of them, who presented this Petition; *that they had done illegally, and that it was Resolved in Council that they shou'd be Prosecuted.*

In conclusion, it must be observed, That as here never was any Parliament more intirely devoted to their Princes Service, nor more ready to the utmost to express their Duty and Gratitude on all occasions, so few Assemblies cou'd have employ'd themselves more industriously and diligently for the Publick Service than they did. It might not indeed have been wondered, if (after so long a discontinuance of Parliaments in this Kingdom) the Members of this House had not at first fallen readily into the Methods of Business, but by what they dispatched in the short time of their Sitting (if the business of the several Committees be considered, as well as what is recited in the foregoing Account) it must be allowed, That they wanted neither Diligence nor Publick Spirits in laying themselves out for their Majesties Interest; their Committees sitting frequently till eleven a Clock at Night, and the House never rising before two; so that if their Services, have not met with such acceptance, as persons so disposed chiefly desired and aimed at; it is their Unhappiness and the Nations, but cannot be accounted their Fault.

FINIS.